



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
*1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

February 2, 2004

Senator Dan Swecker, Chair  
Senate Agriculture Committee  
103 Irv Newhouse Building  
Post Office Box 40420  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0420

Dear Senator Swecker,

I am writing as chair of the State Board of Health to express my support for SB 6636 and to recommend amendments. The bill concerns the disposal of animal carcasses and is scheduled to be heard by your committee tomorrow.

All agencies with authority in the area of animal disposal probably would agree we need a clear, consistent state policy. That policy should be developed through an interagency collaboration and should consider federal recommendations. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy makes this bill especially timely, as does the prospect of avian flu.

Section 1 of the bill calls for a review of WAC 246-230-120(3). Section 2 calls on the Department of Health to adopt rules for disposing of animals with spongiform encephalopathy if federal regulations are found to be insufficient. The statutory authority for chapter 246-230 WAC, however, now derives from the Board's powers and duties, as described in RCW 43.20.050. This is a Board of Health rule, not a Department of Health rule. The Board and the Department agree that future rule making should be consistent with the current regulatory framework.

I therefore suggest the following amendments:

- On page 1, line 6, insert "and the board of health" following "ecology."
- On page 2, line 20, strike "department" and substitute "board."

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Linda Lake, Chair  
Washington State Board of Health

cc: Senator Marilyn Rasmussen  
Members, Senate Agriculture Committee  
Bob Lee, Senate Agriculture Committee Staff  
Members, Washington State Board of Health  
Mich'l Needham, Governor's Office of Health Policy  
Steve Meyer, Department of Health  
Leslie Emerick, Department of Agriculture  
Ted Sturdevant, Department of Ecology